

Application No.: 10/604,627
Docket NO.: 11112-US-PA
Customer No. 31561

REMARKS

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers claims 18-25 as allowed and claim 3 being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 1 and canceled claim 3, without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claim 1-2, 4-5, 7-9 and 18-25 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claim 3 has been canceled, without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 which the Examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have canceled the aforementioned claim merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose.

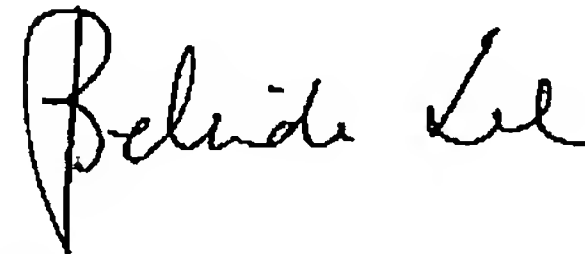
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9 and 18-25 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present invention and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the

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Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the
Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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